

4/3/76

NATO AND THE MARSHALL PLAN-TWO ANNIVERSARIES

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN NOTES THAT THIS WEEKEND MARKS THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARIES OF THE MARSHALL PLAN AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION.

VOICE: "IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES." WITH THOSE WORDS, CHARLES DICKENS OPENS HIS NOVEL "A TALE OF TWO CITIES." THE QUOTATION COMES READILY TO MIND TO ANYONE RECALLING THE SPECTACLE OF A WESTERN EUROPE STILL PROSTRATED BY THE MOST DEVASTATING WAR IN HISTORY. IT WAS ALSO A WESTERN EUROPE THAT FELT ITSELF THREATENED BY OMINOUS SOUNDS FROM THE EAST--FROM THE SOVIET UNION, FRESH FROM ITS EXPANSION OF ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM TO THE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE--NATIONS EQUALLY DEVASTATED BY THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR TWO. IT WAS THIS GRIM REALITY THAT BROUGHT THE MARSHALL PLAN AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION INTO BEING IN 1948.

THE MARSHALL PLAN WENT OUT OF EXISTENCE AFTER ABOUT THREE YEARS -- BUT ITS IMPACT IS STILL VERY MUCH WITH US IN SUCH BODIES AS THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) AND THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET. (OPT) FOR ITS SUCCESS IN RAISING WESTERN EUROPE TO ITS FEET SOWED THE SEEDS FOR THE GROWTH OF ITS ECONOMIES TO THE POINT WHERE THEY ARE TODAY-- A DOMINANT FORCE IN OUR WORLD. AND IT WAS THE FORE-RUNNER OF THE AMERICAN FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS THAT STILL ARE UNPARALLELED BY ANY OTHER NATION. (END OPT)

NATO, OF COURSE, IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE AND MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR WESTERN EUROPE'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY SHOULD GO TO IT. FOR WITHOUT ITS SHIELD AGAINST OUTSIDE AGGRESSION, THE ECONOMIES OF WESTERN EUROPE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECOVER AS THEY HAVE.

IN BOTH OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS, THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD TO HAVE PLAYED A LEADING ROLE--IN SUGGESTING THE CREATION OF THE MARSHALL PLAN ITSELF AND IN THE FORMATION OF NATO. THAT THERE IS STILL A NEED FOR NATO HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY SHOWN BY THE ONE HUNDRED MEETINGS BETWEEN THE EAST EUROPEAN AND SOVIET WARSAW PACT NATIONS AND THE NATO PARTNERS ON THE ISSUE OF CREATING A MUTUAL BALANCED FORCE REDUCTION SYSTEM. JUST THIS WEEK, TWO AND A HALF YEARS AFTER THOSE TALKS BEGAN, NATO AND WARSAW PACT NEGOTIATORS STILL HAVE FAILED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY.

THUS NATO CONTINUES TO JUSTIFY ITS EXISTENCE AS A DETERRENT TO SOVIET EXPANSION IN WESTERN EUROPE. (OPT) BUT THE CASE OF ANGOLA RECENTLY HAS SHOWN THAT SOVIET EXPANSIONISM IS STILL VERY MUCH A PART OF MOSCOW'S CONTINUED CHALLENGE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND DEMOCRACY--CONCEPTS COMMON TO WESTERN EUROPE AND ITS NATO AND OECD PARTNERS -- CANADA, JAPAN AND THE U.S. (END OPT).

IN A STATEMENT TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE JUST ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO (MARCH 16) SECRETARY KISSINGER NOTED THAT--IN HIS WORDS-- "RARELY IN HISTORY HAVE ALLIANCES SURVIVED AS OURS HAVE SURVIVED, AND INDEED FLOURISHED, THROUGH SO MANY VAST CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT...IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, WE AND OUR ALLIES," HE WENT ON, "HAVE NOT ONLY CONTINUED TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMON DEFENSES. WE HAVE EXTENDED OUR COLLABORATION SUCCESSFULLY INTO NEW DIMENSIONS OF COMMON ENDEAVOR..." AND DOCTOR

KISSINGER LOOKED AHEAD TO THE NEXT DECADE, WHEN, HE TOLD THE SENATORS, "...THE COLLABORATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES CAN BE THE DYNAMIC FORCE IN THE BUILDING OF A MORE SECURE AND PROGRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL ORDER." (OPT) "WE HAVE MADE A REMARKABLE BEGINNING...NEW INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS OF OUR COLLECTIVE ENERGY STRATEGY ARE IN PLACE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED AND DEVELOPED COMMON APPROACHES TO THE NEW DIALOGUE WITH THE DEVELOPING WORLD." (END OPT)

AND THAT IS ABOUT AS GOOD A SUMMARY OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MARSHALL PLAN AND NATO AS CAN BE GIVEN.

WHEN THE NATO TREATY WAS SIGNED HERE IN WASHINGTON, THE CEREMONIES WERE PRECEDED BY A BRIEF CONCERT BY THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND. THE BAND PLAYED A MEDLEY FROM THE CLASSIC AMERICAN OPERA "PORGY AND BESS." THE FIRST SELECTION WAS "IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO."

THE HISTORY OF NATO AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES IN THE PAST TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS SHOWS THAT MUSIC TITLES IN NO WAY CONSTITUTE GOOD SIGNPOSTS FOR HISTORY.

PCA/FFG